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PENETRATION AND NATURALISATION OF INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES (NEOPHYTES) IN WOODLANDS OF THE SILESIAN UPLAND (SOUTHERN POLAND)

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Abstract: During the period 1998-2001 phytosociological studies and mapping of the selected 20 neophytes in the woodlands of the Silesian Upland were carried out. For this purpose 52 randomly chosen fragments of forest complexes were investigated. A tentative list of neophytes and ergasiophygophytes occurring in the woodlands of the study area amounts to 40 species. The most frequent amongst the studied species are: *Quercus rubra*, *Padus serotina*, *Impatiens parviflora*. The examined plants mainly occur along roads and paths; about 16% of all localities were noted under the forest canopy. The widest contribution to forest communities is made by *Impatiens parviflora*. The most invaded forest communities are: disturbed patches of deciduous forests, resembling *Querco roboris-Pinetum*, and degraded patches of *Tilio-Carpinetum* and *Luzulo pilosae-Fagetum*. Apart from holoagriophytes non-woodland species can be found such as *Galinsoga ciliata*, *G. parviflora*, *Erigeron annuus*, *Conyza canadensis*, *Oxalis fontana*. The penetration and naturalisation of alien plant species is encouraged by forest fragmentation and the introduction of alien woody plants species.

Key words: neophytes, kenophytes, invasive alien plants, woodlands, disturbance of forest communities, Silesian Upland.